

SR



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/414,992	10/07/1999	UMAIR KHAN	CLICP004	4133

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EXAMINER

RONES, CHARLES

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2175

DATE MAILED: 03/07/2002

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SR

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/414,992

Applicant(s)

KHAN, UMAIR

Examiner

Charles L. Rones

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendment

The amendments timely filed on January 17, 2002 and January 22, 2002 have been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-7 and 11- 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Crandall et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,321,228 ('Crandall').

Crandall discloses:

As to claims 1, 11, and 20,

(a) generating at least one link to a site on a network; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

(b) adding the site to a site directory having a set of categories comprising at least one category, each category including a plurality of links; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

(c) categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

(d) ranking the categorized site in the category; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

(e) a code segment that displays the links in the category according to rank, the links including the at least one generated link; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

(f) a code segment that displays an identify of the creator of the at least one generated link to a second user upon display of the links to the second user; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18; and

(g) a code segment that allows a second user to send an information transmittal to the creator of the at least one link wherein it is deemed that the user can see the creator's entered email address and use the browser to send information; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 5:43-63; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

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As to claims 2 and 12,

comparing the site to pre-existing sites in the site directory; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18; and

generating a notification if the site matches one of the pre-existing sites of the site directory; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

As to claims 3 and 13,

generating a table of sites, wherein the table of sites comprises at least one pre-existing site ranked in the set of categories of the set directory; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

determining whether the site exists in the table of sites; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18; and

mapping the site to one of the categories of the set of categories if the site exists in the table of sites; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

As to claims 4 and 14,

wherein the step of categorizing the site into one of the categories of the site directory further comprises the step of searching the site for keywords relating to the categories of the set of categories if the site does not exist in the table of sites; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

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As to claims 5 and 15

selecting one of the categories into which the site is to be categorized; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

comparing the selected category to the category to which the site is mapped; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

generating a notification if the selected category does not match the category to which the site is mapped wherein Keller is deemed to broadly interpreted to include such a notification and it is implicit in the operation performs matching; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

As to claims 6 and 16,

wherein the site is ranked in the category according to type of ranking based on at least one of: the number of generated links to the site, the frequency that the site is accessed by selection of the generated links, and polling; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

As to claims 7 and 17,

allowing a user to specify the type of ranking applied to the category, wherein the sites in the category are displayed according to the user-selected type of ranking; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

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As to claim 18,

A code segment that creates a sub-category into which the site is categorized wherein a sub-category is deemed to be a type of category and can be a specific topic within a topic; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

A code segment that assigns a creator identity to the sub-category that includes information about a creator of the sub-category; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

As to claim 19,

recommending (vote) to accept or reject additional sites into and additional subcategories under the sub-category; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18;

receiving information transmittals from users of site in the sub-category; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18; and

transmitting information to users of sites in the sub-category; See 2:10-67; 3:1-45; 6:1-67; 7:1-18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crandall.

As to claims 9, and 10,

Crandall discloses the claimed invention except for a group consisting of an electronic mail message and an instant message, or a forum and chat room or associating a mode of communication with the category. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create a group consisting of an electronic mail and an instant message, or a forum and a chat room or associate a mode of communication with the category since it was known in the art that sending messages quickly to communicate with users about an idea and sharing thoughts electronically facilitates open discussion in the public market place of ideas which need to be categorized to better communicate for those who want to discuss a particular topic and that associating words automatically could inherently include a mode of communicating as such as word (i.e. telephones) is a piece of data to a computer processor and software and being data could be any word or type of data.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 21 is allowed.

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The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not disclose, make obvious, or otherwise suggest the structure of the applicant's method of generating a prioritized network directory comprising steps a-o together with the other limitations of the independent claims. The dependent claims being further limiting and definite are also allowable.

Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles L. Rones whose telephone number is 703-306-3030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G. Black can be reached on 703-305-9707. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3800.

Charles L. Rones

**Charles L. Rones
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2175**

March 4, 2002